



AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Annual Report
2001–2002**

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Annual Report

2001–02

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Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer

I have pleasure in submitting the Report of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council for the year ended 30 June 2002.

The Report outlines the work undertaken by the Council and is submitted to you for presentation to Parliament under sub-section 24(2) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

The Report is dated on the day I approved the finalised text for printing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sandra Harding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Professor Sandra Harding
Chairperson

27 September 2002

Australian Statistics Advisory Council

Mission

To ensure that, in keeping with Council's statutory charter, the advice furnished to the Minister and the Statistician in relation to the collection and dissemination of statistics has due regard to relative priorities, is objective, relevant, timely, constructive and practical, and that it is sensitive to the needs of both suppliers and users of statistical data.



Australian Statistics Advisory Council — Participants at 23 May 2002 Meeting.

Back Row: Mr Peter Jones, Dr Peter Crossman, Mr Clem Doherty, Mr Iain Meaney

Third Row: Ms Anne Nolan, Mr Richard Cox, Dr Steven Kates, Ms Christine Bierbaum

Second Row: Ms Sandra Lambert, Mr Wayne Jackson, Ms Louise Sylvan, Ms Betty Hounslow,
Dr Martin Parkinson

Front Row: Ms Marion McEwin (Secretary), Mr Dennis Trewin (Australian Statistician),
Prof. Sandra Harding (Chairperson), Prof. Peter Dawkins

FOREWORD

This report marks my first as a member and Chairperson of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council. I would like to thank continuing Council members, the Australian Statistician and the staff of the ABS for the warm welcome they have extended to me and to other new members of Council.

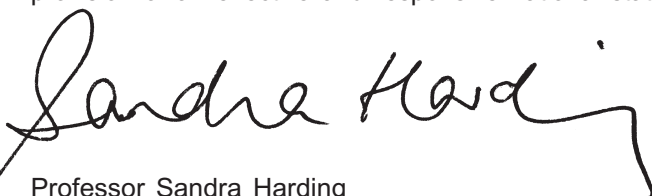
I would also like to acknowledge and thank my predecessor, John MacLeod, for his 18 years of distinguished service as a member of Council, and in particular his last five years as Chairperson. In recognition of John's contribution there is a short article in this Annual Report reflecting on his considerable achievements. As one of Council's longest serving members his input will be missed.

As a keen user of statistics, I am well aware that the demand for statistics is insatiable whereas the resources of the ABS are finite. It is in this context that the role of Council in advising the Statistician and the Minister on key priorities is critical. It is also within this context that the ABS' development of the concept of a National Statistical Service becomes increasingly important as it seeks to minimize overlap in the statistical collection activity of agencies and maximize the utility of the available data.

Since taking up my appointment in March, I have been impressed by the professionalism of the ABS and the breadth of the work program. The conduct of the 2001 Census and the subsequent release of first results 11 months later is clear testimony to the capacity of the organisation. However, like all statistical agencies, the ABS is confronted by a number of challenges. Some of these are discussed in chapter 3 of this report.

During 2001–02 there has been considerable progress by the ABS in addressing the key priorities identified by Council over time and these are reported in chapter 1. At the same time, Council has identified a range of emerging and continuing issues that it believes the ABS needs to focus on in the future. These are detailed in chapter 2. Key issues identified by Council include rural and regional statistics, social capital, information on the ageing population, distribution of wealth and relevant labour market statistics.

I look forward to working with the Council, the ABS and the Minister to secure the provision of an effective and responsive national statistical service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sandra Harding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Professor Sandra Harding
Chairperson

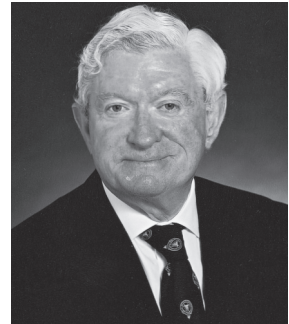
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Note: In this Report, after the first reference, the Australian Statistics Advisory Council is referred to as ASAC or the Council, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics as the ABS or the Bureau.

Mr John MacLeod, Chairman, Australian Statistics Advisory Council 1996–2001

Mr John MacLeod's appointment as Chairman of the Australian Statistics Advisory Council concluded on 30 September 2001, after five years in office and ending 18 years of distinguished service to Council. He was first appointed as a member of Council on 17 March 1983 and was appointed Chairman in October 1996.



He brought to Council extensive experience in the fields of economics, finance, investment and company business strategy having worked in large business organisations for many years both nationally and internationally. More recently he worked as a private economic consultant. He was one of Council's longest serving, and most influential members.

As Chairman of Council, John was keen to identify and consider the important macro policy issues first, before seeking statistical solutions. John also regularly challenged Council to review how it might best fulfil its role in providing advice to the ABS and the Minister. Some of the important issues that John was heavily involved in as Chairman and as a member of Council included:

- the need for much greater emphasis by the ABS on the fast growing services sector including the information technology sector
- the policy issues associated with the ageing nature of Australia's population
- the need for improved understanding of domestic and international financial arrangements

Council members wish John all the best for the future.

1. IMPACT OF ASAC ON ABS WORK PROGRAM AND OUTPUTS IN 2001–02

One of the key functions that ASAC undertakes is identification of statistical priorities for the ABS forward work program. Council recognises the importance of and strongly supports ABS' continued production of high quality core economic and social statistics for Australia. Within that context the focus of Council is to highlight emerging social and economic policy issues, that are likely to become significant over the next 3 to 5 years. Ensuing from that process a priority list of emerging statistical information requirements is then considered in the planning of the ABS statistical work program.

The effectiveness of Council as an advisory body to the ABS and the Minister is best judged by the extent to which the ABS work program and outputs evolve to reflect the contemporary and emerging needs of the policy makers and other key users as identified by Council.

Some of the emerging issues that Council has been pursuing with the ABS in recent years, and the ABS responses in 2001–02 are discussed below.

Rural and regional statistics

The need for information relating to the issues confronting rural and regional Australians has been strongly emphasised by Council for a number of years. Following the establishment by the ABS of a National Centre for Rural and Regional Statistics in 2000–01, Council has welcomed during 2001–02 two Information Papers utilising data from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) which are relevant to the issue.

The *Information Paper: Use of Individual Income Tax Data for Regional Statistics — Experimental Estimates for Small Areas* contained estimates of the total number of wage and salary earners and their average income for a two year period. In addition, a profile of these wage and salary earners has been developed by age, sex and occupation. The combination of these variables provides a good measure of regional labour market activity particularly where other employment measures may not be available. The *Information Paper: Use of Business Income Tax Data for Regional Small Business Statistics — Experimental Estimates, Selected Regions, Australia* contained estimates of regional business economic activity in Queensland for the periods 1995–96 to 1997–98. Although the publication is restricted to small businesses only, the data fill a gap in regional economic knowledge. The availability of both of these statistical outputs annually will enable closer monitoring of regional economic activity than has previously been possible. Council was pleased to note that further analysis of ATO data is proposed by the ABS, which will yield additional detailed statistical information for individual regions and small areas.

The *Information Paper: Outcomes of ABS Views on Remoteness Consultation, Australia* was also released in 2001–02. The paper described the changes which the ABS is proposing to make to its area classification in response to feedback received on the earlier *Information Paper: ABS Views on Remoteness* and further clarifies the purposes for which the new remoteness classification should, and should not, be used.

Other ABS initiatives supported by the Council included: the expansion of the Integrated Regional Data Base to include several new data series; and the release of updates of Regional Statistics publications for New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and the Northern Territory.

Education and training statistics

Council noted the developments and improvements to the range of education and training statistics in 2001–02. Since the establishment of the ABS National Centre for Education and Training Statistics in 2000–01, Council noted that one of its high priority activities has been the development of a Framework for Education and Training Statistics, involving statistical leadership and consultation with a range of government agencies undertaking data collection in this area. Council was pleased to note that this work will result in the release during 2002–03 of an important *Occasional Paper: Measuring Learning in Australia — A Framework for Education and Training Statistics*.

The development of a new Australian standard classification of education released in 2001, has also been a milestone for the National Centre. The classification which replaces and enhances the ABS classification of qualifications will provide a basis for comparing administrative and statistical data on educational activities and can be used for the collection, storage and dissemination of statistical and administrative data relating to educational activity in Australia. Council also noted the release of *Education and Training Experience, Australia, 2001*.

On behalf of a taskforce formed by the Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, the National Centre has also conducted a significant study into the feasibility of including certain questions on school enrolment forms, which would enable the derivation of information about socioeconomic status, socioeconomic disadvantage, and language background other than English — a goal that Council has encouraged for some time.

Wealth and wellbeing of Australians

Noting that wealth is an increasingly important factor in individual economic activity and wellbeing, Council has for some time highlighted the need for more information on the distribution of wealth in Australia and on indicators of wellbeing. Council was therefore very pleased to welcome the release of *Measuring Wellbeing*, an innovative publication which described the conceptual frameworks underpinning many of the social statistics programs and the frameworks within each area of social concern.

Council was also pleased to note the development and conduct of the 2002 General Social Survey which focused on measures of aspects of personal and family wellbeing. Developmental work on inclusion in the next Household Expenditure Survey of a topic aimed at measuring aspects of wealth and its relationship to income and age will go some way towards addressing the issues of wealth and wealth creation that Council has been pursuing for some time. The increased frequency from triennial to biennial of the highly useful information obtained from the Survey of Income and Housing Costs was also encouraging to note.

Another important development by the ABS was the release of *Measuring Australia's Progress*, a publication which responds to the growing public interest in the interrelationship between economic, social and environmental concerns in the Australian community.

Innovation and science

In recent years Council members have strongly encouraged the ABS to collect more information around the key themes of innovation and science and their impacts on the economy. It was therefore pleasing to note the range of ABS publications relating to information technology statistics including measures of government information technology expenditure and employment in *Government Use of Information Technology 1999–2000, Australia*. Similarly, the publication of information on the use of information technology on farms, including regional statistics on the use of computers and the internet in *Use of Information Technology on Farms, Australia, June 2000* contributed to the available data, particularly from a regional perspective.

ABS' efforts in developing a comprehensive draft framework for measuring the Knowledge Based Economy and Society was seen as an important step in meeting the key information requirements identified by Council. The framework will list a set of dimensions of interest in the field and suggest appropriate statistical indicators.

Environment

One of Council's continuing high priority areas has been relevant and appropriate data on the range of environmental issues impacting on Australia. Members were therefore pleased to hear that the first ever Salinity and Land Management Survey had been developed, and dispatched as a follow up to the Agricultural Census. Data on the impact of salinity issues on farmers, salinity management activities, and factors which influence land management decisions on farms will provide some much needed information on this major environmental issue.

Another welcome achievement in the environmental arena was the conduct of an Environment Management Survey for the manufacturing and mining sectors for reference period 2000–01. Information on expenditure by businesses on environment

management and protection, and on a range of other environmental practices was collected.

Release of the innovative compendium *Australia's Environment: Issues and Trends* was also a positive response to Council's urgings on this topic. This publication has a core component of ABS statistical information but also draws on a range of data from other government agencies, international organisations, industry and individual researchers. Some of the specific issues discussed include, uses and values of forests and woodlands, waste generation and minimisation, and environmental accounts.

Indigenous statistics

Better statistics in respect of Australia's Indigenous population has been a significant policy issue highlighted by Council members. In response the ABS has developed, in conjunction with other government agencies, a range of initiatives to meet the need for statistics in this area.

Council noted that the Indigenous enumeration strategy developed to enhance the coverage and accuracy of the Indigenous Persons count in the 2001 Census of Population and Housing should contribute to improvements in the quality of the statistics. As well, Council was pleased to note that both *Population Distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001* and *The Health and Welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples* had been issued during the year.

Council also welcomed the conduct during 2001–02 of the Indigenous component of the National Health Survey as well as the development of the Indigenous Social Survey which will provide a range of information on the personal and social circumstances of Australia's Indigenous population. It will be a valuable addition to the range of information available.

Increased use of administrative data

Council has strongly supported the continuing work on protocols and best practice guidelines for the collection and utilisation of administrative data by agencies at all levels of government. The development of the draft National Statistical Service Best Practice Guidelines was considered by Council to be a significant step towards national standards for the collection, management and publication of data, including administrative data, to assist in the production of high quality and comparable statistics to support informed decision making.

2. ABS FORWARD WORK PROGRAM — ASAC PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE WORK

The first chapter of this report highlighted the cumulative impact of Council discussions over the past few years on the ABS statistical forward work program outputs in 2001–02. It is clear that that impact has been significant. Reflecting the continuing role of Council in influencing the statistical work program, this chapter discusses the key policy issues identified by Council as requiring statistical support over the next five years. During 2001–02 Council has drawn these issues to the ABS' attention in the expectation that they will be adequately addressed in future ABS statistical forward work programs.

Although Council considers that relevant statistical information on these policy issues will become essential in future years, it does not expect these data needs will necessarily result in additional new statistical collections. Consistent with the ABS' concept of a National Statistical Service it is hoped that existing administrative datasets sourced from a range of government, and where appropriate non-government organisations, will be utilised to develop new analytical frameworks or provide fresh perspectives on these issues.

The information needs to support key and emerging policy priorities are discussed below together with the statistical responses to date.

Business failures, financial risk management and entrepreneurship

Council acknowledges that there are many important statistical measures of business economic activity already produced by the ABS.

However an area which Council has noted as requiring further work is enhanced information on the factors influencing the success or otherwise of businesses over time. An aspect of such work will be financial risk taking and entrepreneurship. The ABS has previously conducted a business longitudinal survey which examined business dynamics over a 4 year period and has provided a sound basis for much research work in this area.

Council strongly encouraged the ABS to continue to explore the opportunities to develop a business longitudinal database. In considering options, Council and the ABS are acutely aware of the need to guard against increasing the compliance cost for businesses, especially for small and medium enterprises. This issue is discussed more fully in Chapter 3.

The ABS' consideration of the possibility of developing such a database based on The New Tax System data, as opposed to direct data collection was therefore pleasing to hear. Such a development would be very valuable in better understanding business

dynamics, including entries and exits and in particular the reasons for business failures.

Globalisation

Whilst acknowledging that the ABS already has in place some significant developments relating to globalisation issues, Council is of the view that further work needs to be done in this key area. Council also emphasised the social dimensions of the impact of globalisation and encouraged the ABS to be cognisant of the importance of this issue in its social surveys.

Wealth in Australia

As noted in Chapter 1, an issue which Council has considered as a priority for some time is the distribution of wealth in Australia. Council has also noted the considerable interest in measures of regional wealth and poverty.

Council has noted and welcomed the ABS' initiatives in this area, specifically:

- the development of a modelled time series of household wealth, to form the basis for examining the distribution of household wealth, and changes in this distribution over time, within/between asset types, household types and wealth quartiles
- the expansion of data items on wealth in the next Household Expenditure Survey
- ABS support to the statistical and analytical work on this topic being undertaken by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics and Social Research's Project on Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA). The project aims to track the movement of households over time through various employment status categories and income levels
- its contribution, as a member of a small international expert group which is reviewing the statistical measurement of household income and expenditure, for the International Labour Office.

Council strongly encourages the ABS to continue its work in this important area.

Rural and regional statistics

Council continues to emphasise the importance of more statistics at a regional level. Whilst the ABS has made considerable progress in this area, Council would strongly encourage the Bureau to continue to explore opportunities in this area, consistent with the concept of the National Statistical Service.

Small area data and indicators on a range of social and business issues is another consistent theme emphasised by Council to enable comparisons between regions. State and territory government Council representatives have highlighted the

importance of these data to gaining an improved understanding of the impact of policy decisions. It is therefore especially pleasing that the ABS has initiated the development of statistical standards for the collection, recording and analysis of good quality administrative data.

Social capital, social cohesion, alienation and related issues

Council has welcomed the introductory work undertaken by the ABS on social capital and related issues, recognising the difficulties inherent in measurements of these complex concepts. It is the view of Council however that much more work is required on these important social policy issues. In particular, further development of the draft framework to measure social capital recently released is required. Council complimented the ABS on the wide user community consultation process undertaken.

The Bureau's plans to continue work on the measurement of social capital, including the development of a detailed framework of indicators, the development of information development plans, and an implementation strategy for the production of measures of social capital was noted by Council.

Council expressed considerable interest in the ABS' concept of Information Development Plans. The intent of these plans is to clearly state the public policy issues, assess the data implications, examine the data sets currently available in the community, determine the data gaps and decide which government agency has a responsibility to fill those data gaps. Council encouraged the ABS to undertake extensive liaison and consultation with all stakeholders in the particular subject area/social issue.

Biotechnology statistics

Council has very recently brought to the forefront the increasingly important topic of biotechnology, noting that some states are moving ahead with biotechnology programs with very little data on which to base policies and decisions.

The Bureau's work program in respect of biotechnology statistics was noted by Council. It includes the development of a framework for biotechnology statistics and a contribution towards the development of international statistical standards for biotechnology statistics under the auspices of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Council welcomed these developments and looks forward to the availability of statistics in this important area.

Labour market statistics

Relevant statistics on the labour market have been a priority issue for Council for many years, reflecting the key role labour market policies play in the social and economic development of the Australian community. Whilst Council acknowledges the extensive coverage of labour statistics produced by the ABS, it continues to identify areas for additional coverage especially in relation to the changing nature of the labour market. Council noted the ABS' efforts to better educate users of labour market statistics through the publication of *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* manual released in hard copy in August 2001.

The release in February 2002 of the *Information Paper: Measures of Labour Underutilisation* was also viewed very positively by Council members. The Information Paper presents measures of labour underutilisation as represented by the unemployed, persons with a marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular discouraged jobseekers, and those persons who work part-time but would prefer to work more hours and are available to do so. This is an important contribution to the debate on labour market issues.

In spite of these developments Council encouraged the ABS to continue to pursue the improvement of labour market measures that will increase the understanding of this critical social and economic issue. This will be a specific issue for discussion during 2002–03.

Ageing statistics/Issues surrounding an ageing population

A topic that has featured frequently on Council's priorities relates to the ageing of the Australian population, with Council urging the ABS to develop and provide further statistics which will assist policy development and decision making in this arena. The planned establishment of a Statistical Unit on Ageing in the ABS was seen as a very positive step towards a more comprehensive coverage of this very important issue.

As well, the ABS contribution to the Intergenerational Report released by the Treasurer as part of the federal budget papers in May 2002 was pleasing to note.

However there are a number of areas which Council identified as requiring further work including:

- measures of the positive contribution of the aged such as information on employment and income, extent of self-funded retirees, culture/leisure activities, involvement in voluntary work etc
- wealth of the aged and inheritances
- the effect of the ageing population on demand for infrastructure in the areas of health and aged care and recreational and leisure facilities
- more detailed age groupings for data in respect of the aged population
- life expectancy issues associated with ageing Indigenous Australians.

Council recognised that the results from the 2001 Population Census, the 2002 General Social Survey, the 2002 Indigenous Social Survey and the 2001 National Health Survey are expected to assist in addressing some of the above mentioned issues.

3. OTHER ISSUES IMPACTING ON THE ABS

Apart from the content of statistical collection and analysis activity, from time to time Council also considers other key issues facing the ABS. Issues and concerns focussed on this year include the following items.

Reducing the Compliance Cost of Business

A continuing focus of the ABS is to reduce the statistical reporting load imposed on businesses. Council is well aware of the pressures on the government and the ABS to reduce compliance costs to business, and strongly supports the ABS' efforts to reduce the statistical reporting load imposed on business.

In considering the issue Council noted that the ABS accounted for only a small proportion (estimated by the 1996 report of the Small Business Deregulation Task Force at 1%) of total compliance cost and even a significant reduction in ABS reporting workload would not impact greatly on the total compliance cost confronting business. It was further observed that the total reporting load on businesses imposed by the ABS in 2000–01 was about 428,000 hours, a reduction of 43% since 1995–96.

Council observed that it is important for the ABS to demonstrate to data providers the value of participating in ABS surveys and encouraged the ABS to continue to pursue its initiatives in this regard. Council also noted that there might be scope for the ABS to use external communications consultants to ensure that the appropriate messages are conveyed to businesses.

It was noted by Council that the use of tax data is not likely to achieve all of the savings initially expected, because of the compromises the Australian Taxation Office has had to make regarding their data requirements. Council also noted that the reduction in reporting load often does come at a cost, usually in the form of less detailed statistics, particularly geographic information.

Council has strongly encouraged the ABS to do what it can to reduce compliance cost whilst ensuring the integrity and quality of the statistical service.

Supporting Secondary Data Analysis

Council recognised the need of analysts and researchers for access to microdata, which are collected in the main from household surveys, and the community expectations and ABS obligations to ensure the confidentiality of these data. Currently the ABS releases unidentified microdata in accordance with the provisions of the Statistics Determination which requires the Statistician's approval. ABS' concerns regarding the increasing availability of databases of basic household demographics, which may compromise the confidentiality of ABS unidentified microdata if they are

matched against those databases, was noted by Council. At the same time some members questioned the likelihood of such matching occurring.

This is one of the most important issues facing the Bureau at this time and generated extensive discussion. A number of Council members emphasised that access to unidentified microdata should continue to be provided by the ABS, and reinforced that microdata was crucial to government and academic research and analysis. Some members reminded Council that individual privacy and confidentiality of data provided was a growing concern in Australia and internationally. Council concluded that it was extremely important that the ABS must ensure that confidentiality of data provided to the ABS would not be compromised. Specifically, Council acknowledged that the ABS' guarantee of the protection of the confidentiality of information is the basis on which the ABS achieves such high response rates and retains the confidence of the Australian public, and that maintenance of that confidence was critical.

Council supported the work being undertaken within the ABS to enhance release practices, including tightened legislative and administrative arrangements so as to ensure that this valuable service to researchers and policy analysts could continue in a manner suitable for all users, whilst meeting the confidentiality obligations of the ABS.

Productivity Commission Report on Cost Recovery

Council was pleased to hear that current ABS practices in terms of cost recovery were consistent with the recommendations of the recently released Productivity Commission Report on Cost Recovery.

The issue presented to Council for consideration was whether the basic ABS statistical product set, which the Productivity Commission report proposes should be funded from government appropriations, should be extended. On this issue Council were very supportive of any move to make all ABS publications available free on the web.

APPENDIX 1

THE AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Australian Statistics Advisory Council was established by the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*.

This is the twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Council, and is made in accordance with sub-section 24(2) of the Act which provides that: 'the Council shall, as soon as practicable after 30 June in each year, prepare and submit to the Minister, for presentation to the Parliament, a report relating to matters connected with the operation of this Act'.

Under sub-section 18(1) of the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975* the Council is to advise the Minister and the Australian Statistician on:

- "(a) the improvement, extension and coordination of statistical services provided for public purposes in Australia;
- (b) annual and longer term priorities and programs of work that should be adopted in relation to major aspects of the provision of those statistical services; and
- (c) any other matters relating generally to those statistical services".

The Act enables the Minister or the Australian Statistician to seek the advice of the Council on these matters. The Council also offers advice on these matters to the Minister or the Australian Statistician when it considers it appropriate to do so.

The Act provides that the Council shall consist of a part-time Chairperson, the Australian Statistician (ex officio), and between ten and twenty-two part-time members, including one nominee of each State Premier and the Chief Ministers of the two territories. The Chairperson and members are appointed by the responsible Minister for periods of five years and up to three years respectively, and are eligible for reappointment.

The Chairperson receives an annual fee, set by the Remuneration Tribunal, and members are reimbursed their travel costs, where applicable. Apart from the Chairperson, no members receive remuneration for serving on the Council. Direct expenditure on ASAC during 2001–02 was \$35,982. These costs are met from the Executive component of the ABS budget allocation.

Secretariat services for ASAC are provided by the ABS. The office of ASAC Secretary is held by the Assistant Statistician of the ABS Policy Secretariat Branch. Secretariat support, mainly involving organising and recording of meetings, administering membership and the members online Discussion Forum, and the preparation of Council's Annual Report is provided by staff of the Policy Secretariat Branch. The cost of these services, which is included in the Branch's normal running costs, was estimated to be \$62,601 during 2001–02. Financial statements for the ABS are included in the ABS Annual Report.

In addition, ABS officers are involved in the preparation of many of the ASAC agenda papers.

APPENDIX 2

MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Membership of Council at 30 June 2002 and Date of Initial Appointment

Member	Position	Date first appointed
Prof. Sandra Harding	Dean Faculty of Business Queensland University of Technology	01.03.02
Mr Dennis Trewin	Australian Statistician (ex officio)	05.07.00
Ms Christine Bierbaum	Executive Director Industry Policy and Planning Department of Industry and Trade South Australia	01.12.97
Mr Richard Cox	Director Fiscal Strategy New South Wales Treasury	01.05.97
Dr Peter Crossman	Assistant Under Treasurer and Queensland Government Statistician Office of Economic and Statistical Research Queensland Treasury	11.03.99
Mr Clem Doherty	Chairman Like Minded Individuals Pty Ltd	01.05.97(a)
Ms Betty Hounslow	Principal Consultant RPR Consulting	01.05.97(a)
Mr Wayne Jackson	Deputy Secretary Department of Family and Community Services	01.03.02
Dr Steven Kates	Chief Economist Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	01.09.91(b)
Dr Michael Kirby	Director Economic, Social and Environmental Group Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria	01.09.98

Ms Sandra Lambert	Deputy Chief Executive, Policy Chief Minister's Department Australian Capital Territory	03.01.00
Mr Chris Lock	Director, Economic Policy Branch Department of Treasury and Finance Tasmania	01.06.02
Ms Anne Nolan	Executive Director (Economic) Department of Treasury and Finance Western Australia	01.02.02
Dr Martin Parkinson	Executive Director (Economic Group) Department of the Treasury	01.03.02
Ms Louise Sylvan	Chief Executive Australian Consumers Association	01.03.02

- (a) Membership expired at 30 April 2000, however attended subsequent Council meetings as an observer until formally reappointed 1 March 2002.
- (b) Membership expired at 31 August 2000, however attended subsequent Council meetings as an observer until formally reappointed 1 March 2002.

Changes in membership since 30 June 2001

30 September 2001	Mr John MacLeod's term of appointment expired
31 March 2002	Prof. Peter Dawkins' term of appointment expired
1 February 2002	Appointment of Ms Anne Nolan
1 March 2002	Appointments of Prof. Sandra Harding, Mr Wayne Jackson, Dr Martin Parkinson, and Ms Louise Sylvan
1 June 2002	Appointment of Mr Chris Lock

Meetings of Council 2001–02

23 May 2002

Attendance at meetings

		Attendance
Chairperson	Prof. Sandra Harding	1
Australian Statistician	Mr Dennis Trewin	1
State/territory representatives		
New South Wales	Mr Richard Cox	1
Victoria	Mr Rob Brooker(a)	1
Queensland	Dr Peter Crossman	1
Western Australia	Ms Anne Nolan	1
South Australia	Ms Christine Bierbaum	1
Tasmania	Mr Iain Meaney(b)	1
Northern Territory	Mr Peter Jones(b)	1
Australian Capital Territory	Ms Sandra Lambert	1
Other Members		
	Prof. Peter Dawkins(b)	1
	Mr Clem Doherty	1
	Ms Betty Hounslow	1
	Dr Steven Kates	1
	Mr Wayne Jackson	1
	Dr Martin Parkinson	1
	Ms Louise Sylvan	1

(a) proxy for Dr Michael Kirby.

(b) attended as an observer.

APPENDIX 3

INVOLVEMENT OF ASAC MEMBERS IN OTHER ABS ACTIVITIES / USER GROUPS

ASAC Member	Committee/Group/Activity
Ms Christine Bierbaum	State Statistical Priorities Committee (SA)
Dr Steven Kates	Labour Statistics Advisory Group Economic Statistics User Group
Mr Richard Cox	NSW Statistical Coordination and User Forum Economic Statistics User Group
Ms Anne Nolan	Statistical Policy Committee (WA)
Dr Peter Crossman	Queensland State Statistical Consultative Committee
Mr Chris Lock	Tasmanian Statistical Policy Committee
Dr Michael Kirby	Victorian Statistics Advisory Committee Economic Statistics User Group

APPENDIX 4

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

Below is a statement, as required by section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, about the structure of ASAC and how members of the public can obtain access to information held by it.

Establishment, organisation and functions

See Appendix 1 (pages 12–13).

Powers

As an advisory body, ASAC has no decision-making or other powers directly affecting members of the public. It does not administer any enactments or schemes.

Arrangements for outside participation

ASAC members are appointed by the Minister responsible for the ABS so that a broad range of views and interests is reflected in the advice that it offers to the Minister and the Statistician. Membership details are given on pages 14–16.

Persons or bodies outside the Commonwealth administration may participate in the Council's policy formulation by making representations to the Minister or the Chairperson on matters of concern to them.

Categories of documents

The ASAC Annual Report, which is tabled in parliament, is available from all ABS offices. Files are maintained which contain documents relating to the administration of the Council, papers discussed at Council meetings, summary records of proceedings of meetings and correspondence relating to the activities of the Council.

FOI procedures and initial contact points

All inquiries concerning access to documents, including inquiries under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, may be directed to the Secretary, Australian Statistics Advisory Council, c/- Australian Bureau of Statistics, 45 Benjamin Way, Belconnen, ACT 2617 – telephone (02) 6252 5533.

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS ADVISORY COUNCIL Annual Report 2001–2002



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